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15 Nov 1962
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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD:

SUBJECT: Mr. Helms' Conversation with Luis Fernandez Rocha and Jose Maria Lasa of the DRE

PERSONS PRESENT: Mr. Helms, Mr. Luis Fernandez Rocha, Mr. Jose Maria Lasa, Nestor Sanchez (alias ⁰⁷ Nicholas Sylva)

TIME AND PLACE: 9:40 hours, 13 November 1962, Mr. Helms' office

1. Mr. Helms advised Mr. Rocha that he would like to divide the conversation into two parts. The first part which he wanted to discuss in the morning was the subject of the DRE reports on the storage of missiles in caves and subterranean sites in Cuba. In the afternoon Mr. Helms stated he would like to discuss the DRE/CIA ~~and~~ relationship.

2. Mr. Helms first asked Mr. Rocha about the sources of his information. Rocha replied that their sources included DRE penetrations of the Cuban Government, the Cuban General Staff, farmers and workers. Rocha also disclosed a report which he had received from Cuba on 11 November by telephone from an eyewitness ⁱⁿ ~~from~~ Sagua. The source reported that the missiles being dismantled at Zona de Sagua (Sitiecitos) Sagua La Grande are being moved to the airport at Maleza. Mr. Helms asked Rocha how he had arrived at the figure 87 for the number of ~~IRW~~^{IRW} and ~~medium-range~~^{as reported} ~~IRW~~ missiles which were in Cuba. Rocha replied ~~that~~ this figure was a rough estimate by the DRE of the missiles reported by their sources ~~was~~^{as reported} in Cuba. Rocha claimed the information was gathered by people who counted the missiles as they passed given points on the highways in the direction of the missile sites. ^{DRE} They confirmed ^{its} ~~their~~ information from DRE sources in the Cuban ports. Mr. Helms stated the

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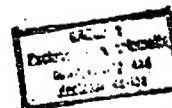
obvious difficulty would appear to be that the missiles could be counted twice, and as several people were reporting on the missiles, each could have reported a missile of a different size, Rocha agreed this was a problem but stated they had asked their sources to estimate the length of the missiles they reported, and that these estimates vary between 30 and 40 feet. Rocha believes their sources are reporting valid information as they are the same sources who reported what he considers accurate information on missiles 1-2 months ago. Rocha then quoted from the 12 October 1962 issue of "The Cuban Report", a newsletter published by the DRE.

"During the months of June, July and August, more than eighty seven Soviet ships docked at Cuban ports carrying men and war material, that included ground-to-air rockets, and guided missiles with a range of over 1,000 miles."

Rocha added that as the information was correct in the past, he believed the information was correct at the present time. Rocha explained that the reports were honest, were not inflated, and are not being used for propaganda purposes.

3. In order to take advantage of Rocha's presence in Washington, Mr. Helms suggested that Rocha take the rest

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of the morning with two specialists and pinpoint on a map the underground missile sites which they have been reporting. Rocha answered he would be glad to do this, but that he was not the best man for the job as it was Angel Losano, who is presently in Miami, who had previously worked on these reports and pinpointed the locations with his Agency contacts in Miami.

4. Mr. Helms then made arrangements for Colonel Albert Davies and Mr. William Tidwell to meet and discuss the subject matter with Mr. Rocha and Mr. Lasa. During this meeting in Mr. Helms' conference room, Rocha plotted the locations on a map of Cuba and gave Colonel Davies copies of the information which he had carried with him. Colonel Davies stated he would check the information and would forward any further questions about this information to Miami to be discussed with them there. Mr. Rocha again apologized for not being able to provide more details but again stated that Mr. Losano in Miami was much more familiar with the details of these reports.

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HERSTON D. SANCHEZ
TFW/PA-PROP

